

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 362

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of the National School Lunch Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2009

Ms. WATSON (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CAO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COSTA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. REYES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SIRES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FARR, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. GRAYSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

RESOLUTION

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of the National School Lunch Program.

Whereas the National School Lunch Program is declared to be the policy of the United States Congress, as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food, by assisting the States, through grants-in-aid and other means, in providing an adequate supply of food and other facilities for the establishment,

maintenance, operation, and expansion of nonprofit school lunch programs;

Whereas Federal regulations further state that participating schools shall ensure that children gain a full understanding of the relationship between proper eating and good health;

Whereas child nutrition programs are responsible for collaborating with the school community to implement comprehensive nutrition and wellness policies in school districts;

Whereas all of America's more than 49,000,000 pupils deserve access to high-quality, safe, nutritious meals available in the school setting, recognizing the link between adequate nourishment and educational performance;

Whereas children that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, decreased attentiveness, increased likelihood of repeating a grade, increased absences and tardiness, and more referrals to special education services;

Whereas in 2007, child nutrition programs in the United States provided over 30,000,000 meals to school children daily, and must comply with complex State and Federal requirements, provide adequate food preparation and dining facilities, and meet budget requirements despite rapidly escalating food, energy, transportation, labor, and other costs;

Whereas losses in school meal programs must be offset by other revenue sources that would otherwise support classroom instruction;

Whereas based on an estimated average cost to prepare a school lunch (including labor, food, and other inputs) of

about \$2.92, and revenue of between \$2.52 to \$2.77 to offset that cost (from Federal reimbursements, commodity entitlement, and the average price paid for a school lunch) school nutrition programs are experiencing a potential loss of at least \$4.5 million per school day based on 30 million school lunches provided;

Whereas the difference between reimbursement and cost undermines the ability to continue to provide nutritious meals to all pupils;

Whereas many families that qualify for reduced-price meals, prescribed by Federal law using the Federal poverty level, find it difficult to pay the reduced fee, and the fee for a paid meal is an insurmountable barrier to participating for an increasing number of families;

Whereas the eligibility scale to qualify for reduced-price meals in the same scale throughout the country does not consider regions with higher costs of living;

Whereas a self-sufficiency index, which identifies the income levels at which families can meet their most basic needs without public support, is available in most regions to meal eligibility standards; and

Whereas a single-parent household with two children in San Mateo County, California, needs \$67,867 to be self-sufficient, while a similar family in Hardeman County, Tennessee, is self-sufficient with only \$21,657: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of the Na-
- 3 tional School Lunch Program; and

1 (2) recognizes that America's pupils deserve ac-
2 cess to high-quality, safe, nutritious meals available
3 in the school setting.

